Camp in the field Two miles South of
Murfreesboro Tennessee Jan 13th 1863

Well, my little girl, how does the world use you, and how do you enjoy yourself, I hope well for I feel more contented when you write as though you were not in a fit of the blues, I know, to one of your disposition, it is a very severe task to be in the least dependant upon others, but you must bear in mind the necessities of the case, and charge it all to the union, as cathes to an excess of patriotism in your devoted husband, although I think the stock of his patriotism, at the present writing is exhibited down to a pretty fine thing, and leaving me to judge of the rest, I should say that theirs was exhibited down too,— but here let me say it is not because our love of country has grown cold, or that our institutions and forms of Government are less sacred to us, neither have we lost our reverence and love, for that emblem of our freedom, and our honors, (the Stars & Stripes) x No, no never let it said of us,— we are willing to fight, & to die if we must, for the maintainance, of our cherished institutions and the principles of self Government,— but it does seem to us, short sighted mortals, that after a protracted war of two years, that we are no nearer the end, than when we began,— that with all the

Elements of success at our command,- Men, Money and a just cause, we ought to be making some permanent progress,- to be sure we have driven the enemy from Louisville to this place and we may drive them into Alabama,- We have done it once before- but we will march up some fine morning and find the army back at their old places in Kentucky or Tennessee, and we will have to tackle back and fight it all over again,- they are even now in the rear of us and are doing more damage in northern Tennessee & Kentucky than we are to them,- It does seem to me that there is a lack of judgement, or energy, or gumption or something - There is something rotten somewhere,- I believe the only way to settle up this war, is to kill everything that has got Secesh blood, and burn everything that will burn,- in that way one can clean it out as far as one go, and preclude the necessity of furnishing a garrison for all the conquered Territory,- And another thing, if our strength is not sufficient to cope with them, if we cannot whip them with our army as it is, let us know it and understand it, but my way is to not call for any more of our northern men, but let us grasp the tools that our enemy can give us, that will weaken him and strengthen us, in a word strike the chains from the blacks, arm them, give them for a watch word "Liberty or death" and lead them on to battle, and Secession will soon tire of her

fort, and blood will cease to flow — I think a negro is just good enough to fight this secesh & I know he is good enough to stop a bullet, but no, there must be just so much fiddling about the Constitution as it was & the constitution as it is, & should be, but this had better throw the constitution to the Devil, and go in on this issues, with every available means, and fight this thing out, and settle it up, and then we can go to work and make a constitution that will suit us all, but do the fighting first

Wednesday Evening Jan 14th

I began this letter last night thinking to write you a short familiar letter, for yourself alone but I wandered off very quick on a subject, I had no thoughts of writing about, and I stopped very suddenly, — to night I feel in a different mood, although in not a very communicative one, — I have been suffering from a very severe head ache to day, and I am in not a very pleasant state of mind, and to make it still worse, it commenced raining about noon and to night it rains for good, just as hard as it can pour down, but still if we have nothing to call us out we are not very uncomfortable, for our tent sheds rain and we have a stove and plenty of wood to keep us warm, but it seemed lonesome and dreary, much more so than what it would if we were at home under a good shelter, — I think I shall

know how to appreciate a quiet little home fireside, if I ever live to have one again

I received yours letter and Gospers to day and it was quite a treat, it was the best letter you have written although I'll bet you did not know it but Gaspers, letter shows an evident want of practice in that direction, and I would suggest that he practice writing to me once a week - he will find it to be a great benefit to himself and a pleasure to me, - I forgot to say in my last letter that your new dress was "real pretty" which I intended to do, - it is only another evidence of your good judgment -

I am very glad, and thankful that you shared dream that we were on the top of the Mountain it was very kind of you, - and also to prophesy that it was some promotion that awaited one. - and now I must tell you what the Colonel offered me to day, - he made a formal offer of the Adjutancy of this Regiment to your husband this day, and to send for my Lieutenants commission immediately, to date from the time that Broome left - Well, I hear you ask, did you accept it? - he said, in this connection, that it was his design to dispense these favors, to those who had earned them, by the prompt, faithful, & efficient discharge of their duties, wherever placed, - to let merit take precedence, - which, you will see, was altogether a very flattering speech to be made to such a modest young man, as your husband is, and I have not the least idea in my mind but what the temperature of his patriotism went up several degrees, just for the time being